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THE STATUS AND FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN AGRONOMIST¹

ON the occasion of this fourth annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy it is of interest to note that our membership has now grown to more than two hundred and that our published proceedings are finding their place not only in the private libraries of American agronomists, but also on the shelves of the libraries of the leading colleges and universities of the country. Indeed the time seems to have arrived when this society should seriously consider supporting a journal. We have definitely put our hands to the plow. It behooves us, therefore, to be diligent, to push this society into the front rank of the scientific societies of the land, and to guard jealously against any and all influences which may interfere with the highest development of its individual members and thereby restrict its opportunity for public usefulness.

It must be recognized that no scientific body can be brought to its highest plane nor be made of the greatest service to our American people unless the ideals of its individual members are high. The future of agronomy in this country is, however, not only dependent upon such ideals, but also, in a very great degree, upon the administrative attitude of the institutions which we serve.

To the professor who, a generation ago, was covering in his way the whole range of agricultural science, the field of the present-day agronomist may seem narrow; but those who have kept pace with the march

¹Presidential address before the American Society of Agronomy, November 13, 1911.